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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/685,464	10/16/2003	Shogo Yamamoto	2860.0721-01	5446
22852	7590	08/04/2004	EXAMINER	
FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER LLP 1300 I STREET, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20005			SPECTOR, DAVID N	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2873	

DATE MAILED: 08/04/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/685,464	YAMAMOTO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	David N. Spector	2873	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 October 2003 and 23 February 2004.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 23-66,84-90 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 23, 35, 47 and 54 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) 24-34,36-46,48-53,55-66 and 84-90 is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 16 October 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 10/206,187.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 0204/23.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: DETAILED ACTION.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 23, 35, 47 and 54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakanishi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,144,505).

In regard to Claim 23 Nakanishi et al. discloses a molded optical component 13 (col. 7, ln. 20-28; **FIG. 1**) comprising: a supporting shaft section 17 (e.g. a “runner” portion) having a first cross-sectional area; a connecting section 14 (e.g. a “gate molding” portion) integrally provided to the supporting shaft section 17 and extended in an axial direction of the supporting shaft section 17, and the connecting section 14 having a second cross-sectional area smaller than the first cross-sectional area (e.g. *clearly illustrated by FIG. 1 taken in conjunction with FIG. 12*); and an optical functional section 11 integrally provided to the connecting section 14. Claim 23 is therefore anticipated Nakanishi et al.

In regard to Claim 35 Nakanishi et al. discloses a molded optical component 13 (col. 7, ln. 20-28; **FIG. 1**) according to Claim 23 from which Claim 35 depends; wherein a protruded portion 18 (e.g. a “sprue molding” portion) is formed on the supporting shaft section 17 (col. 7, ln. 25-26). Claim 23 is therefore anticipated Nakanishi et al.

In regard to Claim 47 Nakanishi et al. discloses a method of handling a molded optical component 13 (col. 7, ln. 20-28; **FIG. 1**), comprising steps of: molding an optical component 13 by a mold 21 (col. 6, ln. 50-col. 7, ln. 2; **FIG. 2**) which is provided with a first resin flow path 36 having a first cross-sectional area, a second resin flow path 33 which locates in continuation to the first resin flow path in a resin flow direction (col. 7, ln. 31-38) and has a second cross-sectional area smaller than the first cross sectional area (e.g. *clearly illustrated by FIG. 1 taken in conjunction with FIG. 2 and FIG. 12*), and an optical functional section forming section 24 which locates in continuation to the second resin flow path 33 in a resin flow direction (col. 7, ln. 29-49; **FIG. 3, FIG. 4**); taking out the molded optical component 13 from the mold 21 (col. 7, ln. 16-22),

wherein the molded optical component comprises a supporting shaft section **17** corresponding to the first resin flow path, **36** a connecting section **14** corresponding to the second resin flow path **33** and an optical functional section **11** corresponding to the optical functional section forming section **24**; and handling the molded optical component **13** on a basis of the supporting shaft section **17** (e.g. *inter alia, as part of a "gate cutting" operation*) (col. 1, ln. 57-64). Claim 47 is therefore anticipated Nakanishi et al.

In regard to Claim 54 Nakanishi et al. discloses a method of handling a molded optical component **13** (col. 7, ln. 20-28; FIG. 1) according to Claim 47 from which Claim 54 depends; wherein the handling step is a step of cutting the molded optical component (col. 1, ln. 57-64). Claim 54 is therefore anticipated Nakanishi et al.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 24-34, 36-46, 48-53, 55-66 and 84-90 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the above-noted claims appear to be directed to particular means/methods for handling small molded optical components (e.g. *having dimensions on the order of a millimeter*) wherein some of the artifacts of the molding processes which are typically attached to molded optical components upon release/removal from the mold are used to handle the aforesaid components for assembly and/or finishing tasks.

Other Remarks/Information

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David N. Spector whose telephone number is (571) 272-2338. The examiner can normally be reached at this number Monday through Friday between 6:00 AM and 2:30 PM. The fax number for the organization where this application is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

August 3, 2004



DAVID N. SPECTOR
PRIMARY EXAMINER